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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM UNSC BM RS  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: FRENCH UNSC RESOLUTION ON  
BURMA

REF: A. STATE 49813

1B. RANGOON 349

¶1. (SBU) We delivered reftel demarche to MFA Senior Counselor for International Organizations Petr Ilichev on May 12. Ilichev said that owing to the long Russian holiday weekend, the MFA was unaware of the French draft resolution on Burma. After reading a copy of the draft we provided, Ilichev thought the GOR could support the resolution with the exception of Operating Paragraph 2's call for the Burmese government to "grant full and immediate access" to foreign aid workers, which imposed upon Burmese sovereignty. Ilichev also questioned the efficacy of such a demand considering that Burma was run by a military government that thought itself capable of handling an emergency and was unlikely to allow extensive access by foreigners.

¶2. (SBU) MFA Myanmar desk officer Aleksey Semenikhin told us that two planes from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations had landed in Burma and off-loaded relief supplies. Semenikhin believed that emergency response experts traveling on the planes had been allowed to remain in the country. He was unaware of reports that the Burmese government denied visas to Russian aid workers (ref B).  
RUSSELL